

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4 and 34 have been amended.
No new matter has been added.

Drawing Objection

The drawings have been objected to because Figures 1 and 8, Figures 2 and 9, as well as Figures 5 and 11 are identical and thus redundant. Applicants recognize that the respective figures are similar, however, they are not identical. With respect to Figs. 1 and 8, Fig. 1 includes a network board 2 installed in the printer 1 that is connected to a LAN 3 and a network 5 via the network board 2 (see page 8, lines 13-17 of the specification). On the other hand, Fig. 8 shows a printer 1 having a network transceiving part 21, through which the printer 1 is connected with a LAN 3 and a network 5 (see page 20, lines 15-17 of the specification). Figures 2 and 5 differ from Figures 9 and 11, respectively, since Figs. 2 and 5 each show a network board 2, whereas Figs. 9 and 11 do not include a network board. That is, in the configurations shown in Figures 2 and 5, the network board 2 provides a printer with a network interface, while in the configurations shown in Figure 9 and 11, the printer 1 itself has a network interface (i.e., a network transceiving part 21). Accordingly, the respective figures indicated in the Office Action show different embodiments, and thus are not redundant. Therefore, the objections to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 has been objected to because of a minor informality. Claim 4 has been amended in order to overcome this objection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 4 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection for the following reasons. According to the present invention, a printer network board or box generates print data in accordance with information resources received outside of the printer, and sends the print data to the printer. In particular, the printer network board or box accesses a prescribed site on the network at a prescribed time such as when the printer is turned on, and appropriately downloads and uses print related information, such as the color conversion table or printer driver, etc., as shown in Fig. 2, for example. Accordingly, in the present invention, the printer network board or box appropriately acquires the necessary print related information and facilitates the installation and updating operation. See the flow chart of Fig. 3, for example. This enables the printer network board or box to generate print data for use with different models of printers.

The enablement rejection relies on an assertion that one having ordinary skill in the art would not know how to generate the print data by the printer network board or box disclosed by Applicants. Applicants disagree, and respectfully assert that one having ordinary skill in the art would realize how to generate the print data with the printer network board or box that is disclosed by Applicants. Further, as pointed out in the Office Action, polling or use of an

interrupt, among other methods, could be used to determine when a printer is turned on. It is only necessary that the claimed subject matter be described to those skilled in the art such that the skilled artisan would be able to practice the invention in accordance with the written description without undue experimentation. There is no critical flaw in the claimed subject matter set forth in claims 1, 4 and 21. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 - 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Perlman, U.S. Patent No. 6,269,481. Claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the network device is a printer network board or box, and therefore claims 1- 20 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Perlman. In particular, the printer network board/box provides a printer with a network interface function and thus, is completely different from a WebTV client or a printer server, which provides a printer with a hosting function. The figures of the present application clearly show that the host apparatus, which provides a hosting function, and the printer network board/box 2 (21) are different from each other. Perlman does not disclose receiving print related information necessary for generating print data that is appropriately acquired from a prescribed location on the network at a prescribed time; and print data generated by using the acquired print related information that is sent to the printer. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 - 5 should be withdrawn.

Claims 34, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gase, U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177. Claim 34 sets forth an information processing method of a

network device for generating print data in accordance with information resources received from outside, and sending the print data to a printer including judging whether or not the print related information should be acquired at a prescribed time, appropriately acquiring the print related information from a prescribed location on the network upon judging it should be acquired; and generating the print data by using the print related information to be acquired, in addition to sending the print data to the printer. In Gase, a network is provided that includes multiple printers and client computers, in combination with a file server that allows central administration and updating of printer driver installations. The printer drivers are installed on the client processors and there is no disclosure of a printer network board or box that is comparable to that of the present invention. MOD I/O 30 operates to provide status information of the printer or plotter to which it is connected, whereas the printer driver 24, printer utility 26 and printer administration utility 28 are installed on the client processors or computers. Accordingly, claims 34, 35 and 36 are not anticipated by Gase.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 21, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlman, U.S. Patent No. 6,269,481 in view of Kageyama, U.S. Patent No. 5,303,336. In claim 21, a printer is claimed that generates print data in accordance with information resources received from outside. Further, the claim requires that the print related information necessary for generating the print data is appropriately acquired from a prescribed location on a network at a prescribed time and that the print data is generated and printed by using the acquired print related information. Perlman is deficient with respect to disclosing a printer, and this deficiency

is not made up by reference to Kageyama, which merely shows a print server 14 including a server 15, print controller 16 and printer engine 17, as shown in 2A. Accordingly, claims 21, 22 and 23 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Perlman and Kageyama. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 11-19 and 24-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlman, U.S. Patent No. 6,269,481 in view of Kageyama, U.S. Patent No. 5,303,336 further in view of Gase, U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177. Each of the rejected claims is a dependent claim, and therefore is at least patentable for depending from a base claim asserted to be patentable for the foregoing reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Allowable Claims

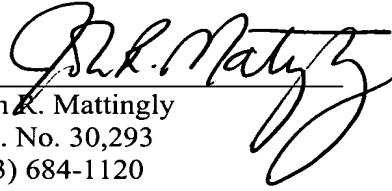
Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability of claims 6-10, 20 and 33.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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